

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUSHANBE 001814

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/CACEN, EUR/RUS, SA, S/P
NSC FOR MERKEL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/14/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [KDEM](#) [RS](#) [TI](#)

SUBJECT: TAJIKISTAN: IMAGINED REPORT TO MOSCOW BY THE RUSSIAN
AMBASSADOR

REF: DUSHANBE 1812

CLASSIFIED BY: Richard E. Hoagland, Ambassador, EXEC, Embassy Dushanbe.

REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

CLASSIFIED BY: Richard E. Hoagland, Ambassador, EXEC, Embassy
Dushanbe.

REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

1. (C) The following is an Embassy Dushanbe exercise to imagine a report that Russian Ambassador Ramazan Abdulatipov might submit to the Kremlin. It draws on Post's observations of the last 18 months, Russian and regional media reports, and other reporting. This cable should be read as a companion piece to reftel.

2. (C) BEGIN TEXT:

Respected Vladimir Vladimirovich!

I want to report to you that we can put Tajikistan firmly in the "stable" column, thanks to the groundwork you've laid since early last year. In response to the American's stabbing their "Friend Shevandnadze" in the back at the end of 2003 (not to mention Kiev and Bishkek!), our consistent message from the beginning of these "color revolutions" has paid off - that the U.S. so-called democracy NGOs are really covert intel tools sent under the guise of "assistance" to plant the seeds of popular revolution to overthrow legal governments. We picked off National Democratic Institute early on here because they had set themselves up by not having registered properly in previous years. We should never under-estimate the power of Soviet-style legalism when we need to use it. Even better, at the very same time we set that particular samovar bubbling, the hapless Americans sent in Freedom House. Knowing how long any bureaucracy takes to gear up, it was probably just a coincidence, but the optic was perfect. I wish you could have seen Tajik President Emomali Sharifovich Rahmonov's expression when we laid out the whole scenario for him. We rightly judge that he has an abundance of street smarts and a dangerous independent streak that bears close watching, but in the end he's just like the others we deal with, burning to hang onto power at any price.

Your first great public triumph in Tajikistan was when you went to Dushanbe on October 16 last year to initial the agreements on debt forgiveness, the legal-basis establishment of our permanent military base, and our tactical withdrawal of the FSB Border Force. I especially liked the way our clever guys got the word to Emomali Sharifovich, "Protect our base, or we'll find someone who can." Yes, we had to bite the bullet to get control of the essential Nurek Space Object Tracking station, that was ours in the first place, but you know why it was worth it.

It was well understood in advance part of the debt deal included Chubais from RAO UES agreeing to sink some non-money into Emomali Sharifovich's pet hydro-electric projects that the West had pooh-poohed up until that time. But the real stroke of genius was including the useful tool Oleg Deripaska and his RusAl billions in your delegation at the last moment and throwing stardust in Emomali's eyes for Deripaska to "invest" in the Tajik Aluminum Plant (TadAZ) and the Rogun Dam. Exactly as predicted, Rahmonov swallowed without chewing the absurd promise of a new aluminum plant in his hometown. Of course, that "little consideration" we put in the Rahmonov family bank account in exchange for free run at TadAZ didn't hurt!

Your next great landmark was that inconvenient April 2005 meeting with Emomali Sharifovich in Sochi. Yes, I know he insisted on interrupting your vacation, but you have to admit

now it was well worth it. He arrived blowing smoke out of his ears because our idiot Prosecutor General had released Mahmadrusi Iskandarov - the so-called "democrat" - from detention in Moscow and refused to extradite him. But Rahmonov left all smiles the next day after you agreed we'd scoop that rich "chornaya jopa" Iskandarov off the streets and bundle him bound and gagged back to Dushanbe. You bought great credit with that one, Vladimir Vladimirovich! We should never under-estimate the burning desire of new wealth and power to eliminate the opposition.

Since then, Rahmonov owes you big-time, and he's making his interest payments with admirable regularity. You have to give him credit for how he's instituted his stealth attack on the American NGOs, and I predict we can count on him to "over-fulfill the plan." The Americans know what's up, but Washington probably won't do anything while we kill them with a thousand small cuts.

I can't take credit for any of this. You and the boys had it all under control before I got here. But I have faithfully instituted your orders, Vladimir Vladimirovich. Symbols count! Under my amiable predecessor, Maksim Aleksandrovich Peshkov, our embassy seemed fairly benign on the surface, overtly collegial with the few Western embassies here and pretending "druzhba narodov" with the Central Asians. As you suggested, I've changed the tone. No more make-nice. No more schmoozing at those awful little diplomatic events. What a coincidence that I'm usually "previously engaged"! It just adds to the new mystique.

I also have to give credit to our FSB, SVR, and GRU boys. They know how to wrap up the little brothers in the Presidential Apparat and the Ministry of Security. I love the way Security Minister Abdurahimov pisses on the Americans' shoes. One more thing - keep sending your ministers here every few weeks. The contrast with the West doesn't go unnoticed, I assure you.

And so, allow me one more time to congratulate you, Vladimir Vladimirovich. You've almost wrapped up Emomali Sharifovich, and we don't even have to hold our noses the way we do with that snake Karimov in Uzbekistan. Well done!

END TEXT.

13. (C) COMMENT: We emphasize once again that this is an imagined report. In fact, Tajikistan continues to make clear, and generally implements, its "open-door" multilateral foreign policy that seeks to balance global and regional interests and pressures. That said, the creeping campaign against U.S. NGOs following the "color revolutions" and the marked change in tone at the Russian Embassy are inescapable. END COMMENT.
HOAGLAND

NNNN